

IMPROVEMENT OF THE WABASH RIVER.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INDIANA,

ASKING

1st. *The aid of Congress to improve the navigation of the Wabash river ;*
and 2d. *Praying a donation of lands to militia, &c., during the last war.*

FEBRUARY 19, 1844.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

A JOINT RESOLUTION asking the aid of Congress to improve the navigation of the Wabash river.

Whereas the Wabash river is a reserved national highway, and is an indispensable link, from its junction with the Ohio to the Wabash and Erie canal, in the great chain of water communication contemplated to accommodate the trade of an immense population between two commercial emporiums, New York and New Orleans, and afford the nearest inland and the cheapest practicable route for the same, as the map of the United States, the examination by authority of an officer of the United States, and the joint and several surveys made under the authorities of Indiana and Illinois, have rendered certain: And whereas the improvement of the navigation of this river, from the Ohio to Lafayette, is evidently an object of common interest, to facilitate the intercourse of all the States, and could be effected at a small cost, compared with the advantages to arise therefrom, inasmuch as the benefits of the canal mentioned, which has been constructed in part by lands donated for that purpose by the United States, will remain greatly circumscribed, and the trade with Lake Erie, east and south, will remain greatly abridged, as well as the utility of the canal, until the important improvement be accomplished: And whereas the financial condition of this and the adjoining States points to the propriety of a renewed application to the enlightened body whose approval had partially provided for the case, when executive sanction was withheld; and the views expressed by the President in his late message have dissipated all fear of denial in that quarter, if the wisdom of the present Congress will enable the Executive to act: Therefore,

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States be requested to use their best endeavors to obtain a suitable appropriation to improve the navigation of the river Wabash, from its junction with the Ohio to Lafayette, the obstructions of the rapids to be first

attended to, under the direction and superintendency of the War Department.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward a certified copy of this joint resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

THOMAS J. HENLEY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS D. WALPOLE,

President pro tem. of the Senate.

Approved December 29, 1842.

SAM. BIGGER.

A JOINT MEMORIAL to Congress, praying for a donation of lands on behalf of the rangers and militia in the service of the United States, during the last war.

The General Assembly of the State of Indiana, acting in accordance with public feeling, do most respectfully represent : That the brave and patriotic men, rangers, volunteers, and militia, in the service of the United States during the last war with England, and then embodied on the western and northwestern frontiers, although they acquired imperishable renown, and afforded security to the citizens and property of the adjacent States, have been very inadequately and partially rewarded : that the troops mentioned, having rendered such essential and valuable services free of all mercenary considerations, should, by every consideration of gratitude, equity, and sound policy, receive an allotment of the public lands, and be placed, in this particular, upon a footing of equality with the troops induced to enter the service under promise of a land bounty: therefore, the inadequate and partial remuneration granted to the militia, volunteers, and rangers, above mentioned, is again respectfully presented to Congress, with an earnest desire to have the matter reconsidered, and a request to the Senators and Representatives of Indiana to endeavor to obtain for said troops, from the justice and liberality of the United States, donations of the public lands, in proportion to the sacrifices endured and the services rendered.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing memorial to each of the Senators and Representatives in Congress.

THOMAS J. HENLEY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS D. WALPOLE,

President pro tem. of the Senate.

Approved, December 29, 1842.

SAM. BIGGER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

Indianapolis, January 2, 1843.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit two joint resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana—one "asking aid of Congress to improve the navigation of the Wabash river;" the other, "praying for a donation of lands on behalf of the rangers and militia in the service of the United States during the last war," which you will please lay before Congress.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. BIGGER,

Per J. H. KEERSTED,

Private Secretary.

HON. ANDREW KENNEDY.